vigilantly.

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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts to publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send staneps for that purpose.

Little Details.

B. B. ODELL, JR., over the mention of his silver-plated name by Executive authority at Washington in connection with small retail postal graft. All observers agree as to the depth of Governor Opell's mony, however, about the manner in manifested. The correspondent of the profanity, with intervals of the unut-

We print again the Executive memorandum which has been so curiously provocative:

MONTGOMERY, N. T. Nov. 27, 1900, allowance of \$200 discontinued. Dec. 1, 1900, Hon. B. B. ODELL referred letter from postmaster asking mestoration. Memorandum to centinue the allowance on the ground of its being a summer resort, and to advise Hon. B. B. ODELL, which was done. Allowance effective Nov. 1. Hon. A. S. TOMPKINS also advised.

"Nov. 30, 1901, an inspector reported no transit mail handled, and recommended discontinuance of allowance

Jame 2, 1903, as the records showed that no separating service was performed, an assistant superintendent was sent to investigate.

'Aug. 21, an inspector recommended discon tinuance of allowance, and on Aug. 31 the assistant superintendent reported no separating service performed; no unusual business; no justification for an allowance. Accordingly the allowance was

The statutory provision under which the extra \$200 was allowed by BEAVERS on the summer resort pretext at Mr. Opell's request in behalf of his protegé at Montgomery is as follows:

Whenever unusual business occurs at any post office, the Postmaster-General shall make a special order allowing reasonable compensation for clerical service.

The extra \$200 a year was enjoyed for nearly three years by Mr. ODELL's friend, although meanwhile two inspectors and one assistant superintendent had investigated the case, found no unusual peared usiness, and recommended the disconpuance of the allowance. The graft continued until September last.

Is it not possible that Mr. ODELL'S anger at the official publication of facts of record concerning him proceeds from the circumstance that he has entirely forgotten this little \$200 case and labors the Hon, WARREN B. HOOKER?

It is a well known fact that Mr. ODELL enterprises. The limitations of his memmittee of the New York Senate as to the burg, known as the Sherman Club:

"Chairman Robsch-Can you account in any way for the receipt by some of the members of the Sherman Club of the odd amount of \$5.45. " Mr. ODBLL-No.

Mr. GARDNER-To whom did you hand the money; you said you paid it out of the general fund: to whom did you hand it that it went to the Sherman Club?

" Mr. ODELL-I told you I didn't remember that; you seem to think that all I have got to do when we are managing three or four countles here in an election, that every little detail I am going to fasten on my mind: I dismiss them as fast as I am through with them.

"Mr. GARDNER-Here is an account, according to your statement, that is nearly equal to half of what you received; that isn't a small detail?

"Mr. Opent-I am used to handling something like a million and a half a year, and \$600 don't amount to much to me."

This habit of not fastening little details on his mind, of dismissing them as fast as he is through with them, of not considering that a \$600 "transaction"and still less a \$200 "transaction" like the Montgomery business-amounts to much to a man used to handling something like a million and a half a year, may account for Mr. ODELL's present surprise and indignation. He may have forgotten the Montgomery incident altogether. He may believe that Mr. ROOSEVELT or some one of his postal satellites is manufacturing it of the whole cloth; and hence the emotions, alternately vocal and unutterable, which stir his sensitive soul when he contemplates the attempt to cast a stain upon his silver-plated name.

A Chicago Physician on the Filipinos.

Senator Hoar recently presented to DOHERTY, M. D., of Chicago, in which always, conformed. the fruits of that physician's observations during a stay of three months in found that the Filipinos treasure a legend entrance, and then attempted to govern ing away our common sense," urges Dr. DOHERTY.

DOHERTY holds a good opinion. He was of warfare if Russia can make it so. varned that they were "liars, thieves,

clean, domestic, hospitable and religious, (at least in form)." He considers twoculture exhibited in the persons of the Americans in the islands, he says:

"No one stole from me, and the only people who lied to me were Americans. The above stated (unfavorable) opinions of the Americans were usually founded on contact with muchachos (servants) and cocheros (coachmen) two classes not entitled to represent any society. . . No Filipino employee of the Government has defalcated, and the only stealing that is done is of a petty character, and is usually the work of these muchachos, who (in accordance with the peculiar social system introduced by the Spaniards) live in intimate con The Albany reporters continue to tact in the home, see their master's vices, suffer describe the state of mind of the Hon. from his impatience or ignorance, and, being human, must often lose respect for him. The Filipino, of course, possesses faults and vices, but he averages up, if not as high as the Anglo-Saxon, at least as

high as the majority of civilized races." As to the alleged "stupidity" of the emotions. There is a conflict of testi- Filipinos, Dr. Doherty met a wise and experienced man, who asked him if he which his anger at Mr. ROOSEVELT is had ever seen a carabao-the solemnest of uneffusive animals-laugh. Dr. Do-New York Herald declares that Mr. HERTY admitted that this sight had Opell's expressions of indignation have been denied him. "Well," said his friend, been "exceedingly vigorous." The New | "the next time you hear an American York World represents him as "too angry storming in broken Spanish at a bewildfor utterance." Possibly both historians | ered Filipino, and then swearing at him | are right, and it is a case of intermittent | for being stupid, if there is a carabao near, just watch it grin, for it knows which is the stupid one." If the carabao is thus gifted, could not that animal be stupidity in other lands, where no infallible test is now known.

The handling of the liquor trade and social evil Dr. DOHERTY commends. The querida" habit, or concubinage, he says, sometimes results in legal wedlock. Dr. DOHERTY regards the so-called "ladronism" as of political, rather than agrarian, origin, rising from a people's longing for freedom. In the administration of patient, and full of common sense; but the existence of two codes of laws side by side and the difficulty of conducting accurate inquisitions through interpreters operate against exact fairness in some cases. Of this condition he remarks that with the exception of the courts the whole machinery of law is calculated to withdraw the substance of liberty while offering its form."

Dr. DOHERTY believes that in ten years from the establishment of the Filipino Assembly, the citizens of the islands should be allowed to vote for independence or annexation. If our administration in the islands is good, be believes they would vote for annexation. Secretary TAFT will not indorse this plan. Of the highmindedness of at least one Filipino, Dr. DOHERTY gives an example. He questioned Gen. VINCENTE LUKBAN on the "war cruelties." Gen. LUKBAN responded, "I was beaten with my sword in hand, and I would think it unmanly to seek revenge by recrimination."

Abolish the Dawes Commission.

The charges made last August by S. M. Brosius against some of the memunder the impression that if there was bers and employees of the so-called Dawes anything wrong about the Montgomery | commission on account of their personal allowance, the blame must belong to dealings with the Indians have been some other correspondent of BEAVERS'S, sifted thoroughly by CHARLES JOSEPH -let us say, the Hon. JIM SHERMAN or BONAPARTE and CLINTON ROGERS WOOD-

President TAMS BIXBY of the comdoes sometimes forget little transactions, mission, Commissioners CLIFTON R. or rather that they become submerged in | BRECKINRIDGE and THOMAS B. NEEDLES the multitudinous activities of his larger and Indian Inspector J. George Wright, were all found to be interested in corory were explained by himself, under porations dealing more or less extenoath, as long ago as 1892, when he was sively in Indian lands. It appears that testifying before an investigating com- none of them was engaged in unlawful practices, but the investigators think outrageous charge that he had bought that Mr. Breckingidge's investment in for \$600 the votes of a negro club in New- such corporations "has seriously impaired his public usefulness." President BIXBY's interest in the corporations "should be terminated without delay." It should be "officially suggested" to Commissioner NEEDLES and Inspector WRIGHT that they sell out.

These recommendations are supplemented by the statement that the commission "can be abolished with advantage." The work it was created to perform is practically completed. It is tainted and discredited. The indiscretions of three of its members have given it a reputation it cannot live down, and it should be abolished.

Food as Contraband of War.

We should like to credit the report elegraphed from Rome that the Powers are trying to reach an agreement with regard to the rules to be applied to neutrals. It is particularly important that | stated that not only had the Postmaster-General the maritime nations should decide be- | protested against the policy of sending to the Post times whether they will accept or repudiate Russia's recent declaration that, | bodied in his report, but he had submitted several during the present contest, food will be treated by her as contraband of war.

What is needed is the formulation of a principle to be embodied in a treaty which, like the Declaration of Paris, shall be binding on all the signatories. So far | nnally went to Mr. Payne's home a week ago Sunas a principle may be deduced from the general, though not unvarying, practice

of belligerents, it may be set forth thus: Food is contraband when it is consigned to a blockaded port, or to the whole stomach of the Post Office Deknown representatives of a belligerent Government, because it is then presumed to be intended for military purposes. When not presumably designed for has subsided a little, and PAYNE and military purposes, food is not contraband the Senate a paper on the conditions in of war. That, we repeat, is the rule to head of the Hon. JESSE OVERSTREET. the Philippines, prepared by DAVID H. which practice has usually, though not He is spared, but he will be watched:

In its recent proclamation of intentions, the St. Petersburg Government the islands are embodied. Dr. Doherty has drawn no such distinction. That didence in his judgment in some quarters, and will Government has announced that all inevitably result in the most careful scrutiny of the to the effect that the Spaniards, as they | food consigned to Japan will be treated | Post Office Appropriation bill, which has just been approached Manila, left their common- as contraband of war, no matter for reported to the House." sense on Corregidor Island, at the harbor | what purpose it is apparently intended. In other words, the starvation, not only the islands without it. "Let us not add of armies in the field and of the occupants uses of dark things." Mr. Overstreet to the mass of Corregidor by throw- of blockaded or beleaguered towns, but publishes a report which certain memalso of the non-combatant masses of a bers rage against. Yet the report regisbelligerent's population, is henceforth ters their zeal for their constituents or Of the Filipines themselves Dr. to be accounted a legitimate instrument their enlightened self-interest. Ob-

gamblers;" but he found them "sober, part of her food supply, but is able in normal years to export considerable quantities of grain. From the applicathirds of the Filipinos, who occupy all tion, therefore, of the principle prothe islands except Mindanao and the claimed by her, the principle that, under Sulu sub-archipelago, to be as far ad- all circumstances, food is contraband vanced in civilization as many European | of war, Russia would have no cause to peasants, the "Mexican greasers", or dread a national famine, although, owing our Southern negroes. Comparing them | to her imperfect means of internal transwith the full fruits of civilization and portation, local famines are not infre-

quent within her territory. What is Russia's motive for announce ing the principle at this time? She can have no hope of applying it at any early date to Japan, for she has lost control of the sea, and has no prospect of regaining it quickly, if at all, during the present war. Her Japanese opponent will, therefore, be at liberty to import all the food needed for either military or

non-military purposes. Under the circumstances it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that, if Russia at this juncture has declared her intention of treating all food as contraband of war, it is because she wishes to indicate in advance the position which she and her allies will take should France, England and Germany be drawn into the Far Eastern contest. She foresees that, although the French navy or the navies of France and Germany combined, might be unable to cope with the sea power of Great Britain, it might be practicable to obstruct seriously the conveyance food supplies from transatlantic countries to the British Isles. There is no doubt that tremendous havoc might be wrought by fleet commerce destroyers upon the vessels bearing from the United States, Canada and Argentina the supplies of wheat and flour which have come used to advantage for the exposition of to be indispensable to the British population.

We need not point out that public opinion in the United States would not for a moment tolerate the treatment wheat and flour, shipped from this is a "nobler vice" than some others, and country to England for non-military purposes, as contraband of war. The American people would insist upon opposing the attempted enforcement of such a principle. No matter what political party might happen to be in power justice he found the Judges upright, at the time, it would never dream of resisting the demonstration of the popular

> But, although this is a fact well known to all intelligent Americans, and already guessed by many Englishmen, recent events have shown that the Czar's advisers are unable to gauge correctly the drift and force of American feeling, or to comprehend the vigilance and the fidelity with which our Federal Government strives to ascertain and carry out the wishes of the American people. The Czar's advisers cannot understand that in this country the real sovereign is public opinion. For that very reason it is important that our State Department, which the St. Petersburg Foreign Office imagines to be sovereign, should indicate promptly the position that it means to take with regard to the announcement of Russia's purpose to treat all food as contraband of war.

> It is not expedient to wait until the principle proclaimed by Russia is actually applied through her seizure of a cargo of grain consigned from the United States to Japan for non-military purposes. Russia having lost control of the sea, many a month may elapse before such an incident takes place; and, meanwhile, France and England, and possibly Germany as well, may have been swept into the war.

The Czar's recent proclamation affords pretext for an immediate announcement of the intention of the United States not to permit food to be treated as contraband of war, when it is presumably intended for non-military purposes. Such a declaration would clear the air, and tend to avert, rather than hasten, complications.

The Man Who Can't Help Doing Good.

Wednesday, between 100 and 151 incandescent Representatives in Congress rushed to the Post Office Department and demanded the name of the hyena in human form who had caused the Bristow supplemental report to be published. For three days all the common nouns and some improper adjectives of contempt and reprobation were showered, in the House and out of it, on the man or men who had committed what appeared to be the greatest crime in history, except the Crime of 1873. Armed with physicians' certificates, Postmaster-General PAYNE and Mr. BRISTOW sat in fortified seclusion. They breathe a little more freely now. They will be permitted to live. The Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune gives the cheering news:

"The conversation of members turned chiefly on the responsibility for sending the report to Congress in its present form, and it was authoritatively Office Committee the information eventually emtentative reports, all of which had been rejected by Chairman Overstreet, who had finally exam ined all the documents personally and had indicated with pencil marks what should and what should not be included in the report in order that it might conform to his ideas. Mr. OVERSTREET day to insure that his instructions were carried out to the letter."

Not even the Hon. HENRY D. CLAYTON of Arkansas, who yearns "to rip the partment open," wants to make incision into the chairman of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads. The storm BRISTOW were lightning rods over the

The growing conviction that Mr. OVERSTREET to his committee is producing a certain lack of con-

Here the optimist can rub his hands

cheerily and mark once more "the moral serve yet another triumph of good. A Russia herself does not habitually de- little petulant still with Mr. OVERSTREET'S wifers, cowards, tyrants, ingrates, pend upon fereign purveyors for any thoughtful kindness to them, members

will note jealously the Post Office Appropriation bill, of which he is the chief engineer. No shady or doubtful item

will be allowed to stay in it. The pocket of the United States will be guarded adoption generally of the germ theory of disease medicine had at last attained to the

Where are the hyenas now? Doves are fluttering, lambs are frisking around the Hon. JESSE OVERSTREET, the man who can't help doing good, whether he wants to or not.

Society Notes From Eastern Massachusetts.

We love to peep over the Boston Pale. The ice is two or three feet thick on those dear old brick sidewalks. The snow is six feet deep, but the Bostonians don't complain. Spring is their street cleaning department. The "going" is not so bad that the descendants of the friends of freedom who dumped the tea into the harbor can't find their way to the State House to protest in the name of virtue, in the name of morality, in the name of Massachusetts, against the infamous proposal to let the tavern keepers sell a glass of "licker" after 11 P. M. Meanwhile, sedentary Boston toasts its slippers by the tight-air stove, opens the Boston Budget with almost our own eager longing and devours the "Society Notes.

A few of these we indorse and pass on to the rest of the sociological squad:

"Messrs. Wiggin & Elwell announce that Mr. ERNEST HENDRIE has been admitted to the firm." "A regular meeting of the Bostonian Society will be held in the Council Chamber. Old State House,

on Tuesday, March 8, at 3 P. M. "The social event of the week in Lexington was the lesp year party given by the Lend-a-Hand Club in the Town Hall on Monday evening."

"Mr. and Mrs. HORACE BOWKER of Boston ar receiving many congratulations upon the birth "The Whitman Pellowship will hold its last regu

lar nubile meeting for this season in Tremont Temple. Taursday evening, March 10. Miss EMMA FRANKLIN, formerly of Brookline

s spending the winter in Boston." "An informal reception was held Tuesday afternoon at the rooms of the Animal Rescue League in Carver street. After visiting the kennels, the

guests inspected the cat department. "Mr. ARTHUR P. SCHMIDT, the noted publisher has one of the happlest dispositions in Boston. To watch him in his daily walk from his residence at the Back Bay to his place of business is like a ray of sunshine from a clouded sky. Mr. SCHMIDT in variably carries a cane, and his erect figure and benign countenance reflect peace of mind and a generous heart. He is a self-made man and one of Boston's successful merchants. Have somebody point him out to you to-morrow morning in your walk down the Boylston street promenade he goes along just before 9."

The snarlers against Boston society should forever hold their snarls. These "Society Notes" paint a modest, rural, friendly society, such as may be seen in the "society columns" of the Londonderry Sifter, the Good Thunder Herald, the Clallam Bay Record, the Okobojo Times and Bill Barlow's Budget.

The District of Alaska has no Legislature Distances in it are so vast that a Legislature may long be out of the question. The Governor has merely nominal and trifling power. As Senator Nelson of Minnesota, who has visited Alaska, says, the Governor is "Commander-in-Chief of the militia, and they have no militia." He makes an annual report, keeps an eye on the seal fisheries, and he has some other miscellaneous duties. Three District Judges and forty-three Court Commissioners, appointed by them. are really such civil government as Alaska has. The granting of liquor licenses and licenses to follow a trade and occupation, a license system peculiar to Alaska, is among the duties of the District Judges.

The bill, taken up in the Senate la the House of Representatives from Alaska, ought to pass. It is only fair that the inhabitants of that great, isolated and feebly organized Territory should be represented by a Delegate who can tell Congress what they want. The amendment offered by Mr. PLATT of Connecticut providing that nothing in the act shall be construed "to imply or indicate that the territory embraced in the district of Alaska, or any portion thereof, shall at any time hereafter be admitted as a State," is harmless. and it may be a comfort to the feeble-kneed.

When New York city began the business vear of 1903 it had \$6.175.351.60 on hand to pay its bills. During the year \$318,779.-737.52 was paid into the city treasury and the sinking funds. Father Knickerbocker thus had \$324.055.089.12 to his credit in the course of the year. He spent \$315.436.665.46 to pay his just and honest debts, and when he balanced the ledger on Dec. 31 he had \$9.518.423.66 on hand with which to celebrate the birth of the new year, an amount sufficient to tide him over for a time

How much more of a real sport rowing is in English universities than in American s shown by the "torpid" and "Lent" races that have just been held at Oxford and at Cambridge. They are queer races, for nature has been chary of wide rivers to Britain, and on Isis and Cam only one eightoar boat can pull at a time, so the boats are strung out in a line, fifty vards or so apart and the object of each is to "bump" the boat ahead, in which case it goes up one place in the line. In the leisurely English fashion the racing is spread over a whole week, three races a day.

This year at Oxford thirty-one eights took part; that is to say, 248 men pulled oars; at Cambridge the number of boats was fifty and of rowers 400. This does not include the university crews which were already in training at Henley. Practically, the number of undergraduates to be drawn upon for these crews is the same at each English university as at Harvard or at Yale What would an American coach give to have a battalion of oarsmen like these to draw from in place of the squads that now train for the university crews?

The Abhorred Circus. Say! Since the circus struck the town I've been there every day:

la's just the biggest streak of luck That ever came my way. First Grandpa dropped around an' ser He didn't want to go. But s'posed there wasn't no one else

To take me to the show. On Tuesday Uncle Jimmy came, To see the thing: 'twas jest in case I wanted to go there.

Then elster's beau came up one night; It bored him, he had found, But thought as p'raps I'd like to see The elephante go round. That cross old man who lives next door

He comes an' sez to Ma He had no kids, so he would take

When Pa came home on Saturday I heard him grumblin that He hated it like sin, but guessed He'd hafter take the brat. McLaribunon

INFECTION BY RADIOACTIVITY?

Curious Speculations Discrediting the Germ Theory and Offering a Substitute. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN -Sir: It would seem to the man of education and intelligence be he layman or practical scientist, in touc with the progress of the times that by the

dignity of an exact science. The fact that certain bacteria have been discovered from time to time in certain diseases, and only seemingly in those certain diseases, would naturally lead one to con sider that there must be some connection between those bacteria and the diseases in

which they were found. And what would be more likely and proba ble than the supposition that these bacteria were the cause of the diseases in which the seemed to flourish?

In order, therefore, to pursue the practice medicine in a thoroughly scientific and satisfactory manner, we would require simply to discover and isolate the germ causative. as it would seem, of each particular disease under consideration, administer the proper bactericide, and leave nature to do the rest. Nothing simpler

On first thought one would be apt to jump of the conclusion that after all the centuries of endeavor on the part of the great practitioners of medicine from the time of Hippocrates to the present to discover the cause of disease the goal had been finally reached. The idea is certainly very fascinating that by the propagation of bacteria diseases of a certain character are propagated, that by the incubation of bacteria, the same diseases are incubated, &c.

But, as an analogous proposition would we claim that a magnet propagated magnetism by means of bacteria, simply because a dozen pieces of steel showed signs of magnetism after contact with the original magnet?

M. Becquerel carried a piece of radium the size of a pea in his vest pocket for a few hours. A sore resulted after several days at the place n the body close to which the radium had been placed. Does it seem necessary to explain this apparent incubation period of disease by bacteria?

Incubation, propagation and transmission o distances have been the peculiar properties of certain diseases that have been known for ages as contagious or infectious on ac-count of the conveyance of these diseases from one person to another and so on to a third, &c.

Now, the fact that these diseases went through these processes seemingly of incubation, propagation. Ac., almost compelled nedical scientists to seek in living entities for the solution of these phenomena, with the result that for a number of years past the profession has been, almost to a man, captured by what has been called the germ theory of

So completely wrapped up in this theory have medical men become that a word have medical men become that a word breathed against it would savor of the most downright heresy.

The many shortcomings of the theory seem to be totally ignored. Its entire inadequate-ness to suit some of the conditions—as, for instance, those prevailing in influenza—seem never to enter into the question.

As a matter of fact there is no discussion of the question. The whole theory is swallowed

the question. The whole theory is swallowed bolted without mastication.
Radioactivity has turned almost the whole scientific world upside down, and compelled rearrangement of our ideas regarding a rearrangement of our ideas regarding certain theories of matter.

Throughout all the excitement attending the discovery of radium the spirit does not seem to have moved the medical profession to see in it anything else but an addition to the pharmacoposis.

pharmacopœia.

Everywhere we read of the wonderful cures wrought by this new element. Its therapeutic virtues are chronicled in every medical publication. Nowhere do we read a single item as to its revolutionary effect upon the germ theory of disease.

Fire is excellent for the warmth it furnishes to us when we are cold, and when we feel the germ theory of disease.

Fire is excellent for the warmth it furnishes to us when we are cold, and when we feel the genial glow as we step into the house from the frigid atmosphere of the street we are apt to call it blessed, but its ravages are daily chronicled and read of with awe and shuddering.

In like manner the good wrought by radium is no doubt wonderful, but nowhere does it seem to have occurred to investigators to consider its other side—its evil aspect. It has been hailed—on account of its presence in springs, in petroleum, &c., as a great natural cure-all. Gas in petroleum wells has been found charged with it. Its properties can be transmitted to other substances. It can stir up activity in other substances by its mere presence, without even requiring critact. It would seem to me that the maje mention of some of the properties of radium and its kindred chemico-active substances would be sufficient to proclaim it immediately a formidable rival of the germs, to which faith has been pinned so long.

What more natural or more reasonable than to suppose that the gases emanating from a

been pinned so long
What more natural or more reasonable than to suppose that the gases emanating from a sick room are heavily charged with chemico-active substances, capable of being transmitted to distances by the clothing and permitted to distances by the

mitted to distances by the clothing and persons of visitors, infecting the air of rooms miles distant from the original focus and propagating (if we might still retain the term) wherever carried the same or kindred chemico-activities?

If the affinities were the same then we would have the same disease developed; if not, then kindred disturbances (or diseases) would supervene.

These gases may be entirely inodorous—at least to human beings. There is a normal scent or gas clinging to every one and dissipating in the surrounding atmosphere or detaching itself from the person and attaching itself to other objects. As a proof of this may be recalled the tracking of slaves by bloodhounds, the scenting of game by animals in general, &c.

If these gases or scents emanate from the ody in health, what must we not expect in It should be perfectly apparent to any one that in view of the recent discoveries in that in view of the recent discoveries in chemico-activity, it would be the part of wis-dom to look beyond its merely proximate, therapeutic virtues, and investigate the nether

side of the question.

It is impossible to explain the lightning spread of influenza by the germ theory of disease, and yet the bacteriologists attempt tordo so.

Its course from East to West would indicate that its origin was to be sought in extra-planetary sources—impinging upon the earth in a manner similar to the rays of the sun and in similar manner pursuing the same

earth in a manner similar to the rays of the sun and in similar manner pursuing the same course.

In the chemico-active gases lingering in invisible clouds in certain parts of space—the products of millions of combustive processes of ages age—and through which the earth plunges from time to time in its career; in these gases are to be found the prime, ultimate causes of that desolating disease as well as the sine qua non of all its accompanying train of offspring and evil kindred.

To some it might seem but the resurrection of the old chemical extension theory versus bacteria, but it is easy to see, in chemico-activity, a vast difference from mere chemical extension.

In chemico-activity a formidable rival to the germ theory is to be found.

This statement may seem rank heresy to many, but to emphasize it I will add that there never sprang into existence from any combination of chemicals—normal combination as found in health or abnormal as found in the various chemical deviations from chemico-activity. Bacteria decay and die, just as all animal and vegetable life perishes subject to the inexorable laws of chemical change. Just as the changes wrought in the tiny acorn by the abscrption of the chemicals from the earth mean death to the acorn, they also mean the springing into existence of a new entity—destined to become a giant oak; and in like manner the absorption by the human body of the chemicals by which it is surrounded furnish it with new life from time to time, and in certain conditions of a superabundant supply or a deviation from the normal chemical incredients supplied, this life takes the form of the entities known as bacteria.

takes the form of the entities known as pay-teria.

For purposes of diagnosis, bacteria are of inestimable value, and as secondary agents in the chemical disintegrations transpiring they have their uses.

When bacteria are relegated to their proper place in the economy and more time devoted to the chemicals through which they first sprang into existence, and by means of which they flourish—then indeed will giant strides be made in the science of medicine. be made in the science of medicine.

JOSEPH D. HARRIGAN, M. D.

NEW YORK, March 12.

A Respected South Bender.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Have you come for Mr. Ceph Moomaw, a rallway postal clerk SYRACUSE, N. Y., March 11.

Dowie Indorses Vardaman. From Leaves of Healing. Governor Vardaman's action in Mississippi vorthy of high commendation.

Spring fashlons and patterns attract immediate

stention in the April number of the Delineato There are many literary articles of interest besides among them one of travel across Canada, with remarkable pictures of northwestern scenery and other about Mme. Nordica with many photographs and one on gardens in vacant city lots. Verse stories, natural history and children's tales will be found here too.

OUR NEAREST ISLAND.

The Controversy About Its Prosperity

Under Actual Conditions. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I have neither purpose nor desire to enter into a controversy with Mr. Walter J. Ballard regarding the economic condition of the island of Porto Rico. But his treatment of my earlier comment on that situation seems to call for some reply. Otherwise I in writing, and THE SUN in publishing, rest under an unanswered charge of inaccuracy if not of outright per-

Mr. Ballard follows a line of argument which is at least unique. I quoted export and import figures in round numbers, and did not quote my authority. Therefore, according to Mr. Ballard, I am and must be wrong or at best unreliable. If Mr. Ballard will obfrom the official bureau of which Col. O. P. Austin is the head, now included in the Department of Commerce and Labor, a vol-ume published by that bureau and covering broadly the general conditions in all of the insular areas with which our recent experience has brought us into contact, and will turn to pages 229 and 231, he will there find an official statement of total exports and imports of Porto Rico back to 1887. For his enlightenment, I will say that the figures there given are probably inaccurate because of the methods employed in Spanish-American custom houses. But this irregularity would support my assertions, rather than those of Mr. Ballard, as the quoted figures are below rather than above the actual amounts. Instead of, as I said, a falling off

amounts. Instead of, as I said, a falling off of 17 per cent. in Porto Rican commerce, it is exceedingly probable the fall is 25 per cent., and perhaps even more than that.

Mr. Ballard's argument that a larger sale to one customer, while there is a falling off in total business, is a sign of prosperity and an evidence that more business is being done is little short of ludicrous. At least, the majority of merchants would prefer a total sale of \$150 to ten customers to a trade of \$100 with one customer, and would probably imagine that they were making more money by the larger sales.

His balance of trade argument is specious in the extreme. Undoubtedly he would assert Cuban prosperity during the period of intervention as a result of the beneficent and able rule of Dr. Wood. How does he reconcile his conviction of Cuban prosperity with the fact, of official record, that Cuba's commerce during the intervention shows an adverse

his conviction of Cuban prosperity with the fact, of official record, that Cuba's commerce during the intervention shows an adverse balance of more than \$40,000,000? It is not easy to see how a favorable trade balance of even so vast a sum as \$615,880 for a year is an indisputable proof of Porto Rican opulence.

Mr. Ballard refutes all tales of industrial distress in the island by quoting Governor Hunt. He is quite satisfied to accept Governor Hunt as an unimpeachable authority.

Mr. Hunt is doubtless a man of unswerving integrity and honesty of purpose, but he is not necessarily a man who is best informed regarding conditions, and it is hardly to be expected that he would submit reports that would write his administration down as a failure. Dr. Wood told us some very glowing stories of Cuban contentment and prosperity up to the autumn of 1901. Mr. Ballard may recall that at that time Dr. Wood. Secretary Root and President Roosevelt went on public record with vehement assertions of impending disaster in Cuba if the American Congress failed to grant tariff concessions to Cuba's products. This does not prove that Governor Hunt has deliberately falsified his reports, but it opens a possibility that he may have fallen into the same pit as that into which there fell our great first prize administrator, Dr. Wood.

have fallen into the same pit as that into which there fell our great first prize administrator, Dr. Wood.

It does not seem to me that the extract quoted from Governor Hunt by Mr. Ballard is as redundant with exuberant optimism and assurance of Porto Rican prosperity as Mr. Ballard seems to think it is. There are sundry qualifying expressions in it. "Conditions in the island are as satisfactory as could be expected." "Until the lesson is better learned that the only way for a country to prosper is by the labor of its people, we will have difficulties here." These are not indicative of that unrestrained and unlimited wave of prosperity so plainly seen from the tower windows of the Sage of Schenectady. "Corresponsal" once spent about five months in doing nothing except study the conditions of Porto Rico. During that time he travelled over the greater portion of the island. Since that time he has been in frequent personal communication, by word of mouth and by correspondence, with various Porto Ricans who are not entirely without standing in the land of their birth and residence.

Mr. Ballard finds, presumably, material for some good American boasting in Governor Hunt's statement that the coffee crop this year is almost normal, and that prices for the time being are better than they have been for the last two or three years. Before the war Porto Rico's coffee crop varied in total value according to the size of the crop and the prevailing market prices. It stood in the vicinity of \$7,000,000 or \$8,000,000 a tyear. I regret that I have not at hand the prevailing market prices. It stood in the figures for last year. But inasmuch as the Porto Rico Official Register gives, for the year ending June 30, 1903, United States import of Porto Rico coffee as \$718,531, and the total export trade of the island, including coffee and everything else, for the same period, as \$3,857,467, it is at least reasonable to assume that the value of Porto Rico's \$6,000,000 to \$7,000,000 worth of sugar has been brospectous or contented. her financial salvation, but even that has not made the great mass of her people either

made the great mass of her people effice prosperous or contented.

I admit Mr. Ballard's superior skill in jug gling with figures, but a few cold facts which is a community of the perion of the second less prosperity which has come to Porto Richard as a result of our administration of the island New York, March 11.

Correspondant

Prof. Prince on Frederick's Statue,

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It seems me that your editorial in to-day's issue on The Statue of Frederick the Great" is open o criticism on two points. First, it makes no difference either in the

appropriateness or the acceptance of Emperor William's gift whether the renowned Prussian King was a friend or an enemy to

Prussian King was a friend or an enemy to liberal institutions. It is both natural and fitting that William II., in seeking to express his regard for the American people in the form of a valuable present, should select a statue of Germany's supreme hero. Frederick was, moreover, the greatest master in the art of war that appeared in Europe from the time of Cæsar to Napoleon. The gift is simply a polite and generous compliment to our national military prowess. That is indicated by the fact that the War College has been selected as the site for the erection of the statue. That Frederick the despot was not impressed with the sublimity of the democratic idea is no reason why we should decline to make room on a distinctly military reservation for the sculptured likeness of one of the most distinguished Generals of history.

Secondly, it is not competent for you to cite, in support of your allegation that Frederick was inimical to the colonial cause, the fact that he did not recognize the independence of the United States when France did. To have done so would have been contrary to the haw of nations, and an act of hostility to Great Britain which that nation would have been justified in answering by a declaration of war, as she did in the case of France.

There are but two conditions under which recognition of independence may lawfully be granted. Either the revolution must be reasonably certain. In 1778 we were not only not independent, but events indicated that we never would be. It was the derkest period of the war. Prussian recognition of American independence was impossible.

Professor of International Law. Carlisle, Pa., March 11.

Professor of Inte Carliste, Pa., March 11.

Polygamy and the Ox Cart.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: There can be no danger in the discussion of polygamy as practised by the Mormons. When the policy of one State or more is a cancer eating its way into the the dictates of the national Government. I hate those words, "State rights." But for those words the civil war never would have been fought. We are a nation, one and inseparable, and that question is settled forever.

As to the doctrine of polygamy as a religious doctrine, no civilized man believes that a just God ever revealed to man that polygamy is the highest type of virtue. Who cares whether or not Martin Luther, John Milton and the early Christian Fathers taught that polygamy is right for man. They were barbarians, and it is only a barbarian that would practise and teach polygamy.

We have done away with the ox cart, and now travel by steam and electric rallways; we no longer write books with a goose quill—the printing press turns out one million copies where one was written before; the tallow dip is thrown away and the ele trie light is substituted; the workingman to-day knows more and lives better than did Solomon in all his glory; war is not now carried on by the kill women and innocent babes: th man of to-day is not the slave of man, but is

Why should it not be thus? If we have abandoned the mode of barbarian transportation for that of civilization; if instead of having one individual with a library, we have now a million; if civilized man has thrown away the light of barbarism and has stolen the lightning from the clouds with which to turn the dead night nto the living day, why should man persist in he lieving that the being that gave him birth is not the equal of the man he affectionately calls father?

WANTS A YALE SONG.

Something, Says Mr. Heald, With the True Ring of College Life in It.

OBANGE, N. J., March 18 .- John O. Heald of Orange has offered a prize of \$100 for the words and music of a song that will best exemplify the true Yale spirit. Mr. Heald is a graduate of Yale University and says is a graduate of Yale University and says he has long been impressed with the fact that Yale has not a song with the true ring of college life. The competition will close in April and judges who have been selected by Mr. Heald will go over the material submitted. Mr. Heald declares that he wants to get a song that will stand the test of years. Harvard, Cornell and other universities all have their songs, he says, and Princeton's "Old Nassau" holds the palm among them. He is looking for something that will be to Yale what "Old Nassau" is to Princeton.

Out of the Ruins of the Capitol.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In excavating near the ruins of what was known as the Capitol in the ancient city of Washingtown, the once famous chief city of the United States of America, more than four thousand years ago, a workman found what appeared to be the diary of a defeated Congressman Although bound in what is unmistakably leather, it is nevertheless in a remarkable state of preservation, apparently due to the process known to the ancients and now, indeed, a lost art, of preparing the leather with alcohol. Even after the lapse of full four thousand years, the odor of that liquid can

plainly be detected in the book.

Many interesting incidents and names are recorded in this wonderful book, and its recovery is regarded as a great find for anti-

Among other things appeared the following quaint poem, which, from the dimly penned lines preceding it, appears to relate to the report of a "Grafter's Investigation," police officer known as Joseph L. Briston, Fourth Assistant Police General, which, it seems, inculpated a large number of Government employees called Congressmen, which the writer of the poem was one

THEODORE ROOSEVELT JONES. TOPEKA, March 13, 5,942.

MY KANGAROO. I do not love thee half so well
As in the days of yore;
But what has changed me? Who can tell What makes me feel so sore? Yet once, alas, I loved thee so My Sheriock Holmes, my Kansas Jos.

It is not that thy beauty, dear, Has faded from thy face; It is not that thy gentle hand Has lost its catching grace. Ah, no, not these, my long, gaunt Joe, Now makes me love thee less. Ah, not When thou didst, with thy mailed hand, Grab grafters from their festering nest, to

The welkin rang throughout the land, Ah, then, I'm sure, I loved thee best. ow when thou prickst ME like hell,

Something About "Grog and Grub." TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In your

article on Platt and Odell the other herein many incidents of Odell's ingratitude to Platt were mentioned, you overlooked an nteresting incident of the campaign of 1902, when Odell was a candidate for reelection and David B. Hill proved him to be a stockholder of record in Mathews & Co.'s grocery concern, which sold its wares to the State departments. Odell, replying to Hill on that occasion, plaintively cried that "Hill has eaten of my bread and sat at my board," and yet Hill had gone into a political campaign to swat Odell for the Mathews & Co. grafting

business and Odell's connection in it. Odell needn't complain of Hill when he re-members how many times he has sat at Platt's board and partaken of Platt's food, and, in fact. I might say that on a thousand occasions Platt "spread the cloth for the Governor and bade him sit to the feast." During the last ten years Odell has partaken of Platt's grog and grub a great many times, and yet Odell not only didn't think it amiss for him to accept everything in the shape of physical sustenance from Platt, but he also took anything handy in the way of political sustenance In fact, Platt gave him the greatest political feast in the way of political promotions and nominations and elections, and yet Platt hasn't whined when Odell, a member of his own party, accepted his food and his political advancements and then turned and struck

So it seems to me that that whine of Odell's Hill had sat at Odell's board was somewhat

NEW YORK, March 13. The People's Interest in the New Subway

Plan. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The New York public have apparently hardly waked up to the great importance to the business interests downtown of the proposals which were made to the Rapid Transit Com-mission. If the plans submitted by Mr. Vreeland of the Metropolitan system are carried out there will be a means of prompt communication between different parts of the downtown district which have been here-

tofore sadly lacking.

The crosstown tunnel at Thirty-fourth street with another crosstown tunnel at Chambers street, and a belt line around the Battery, with their connecting lines down Eighth avenue and Broadway, will afford rapid transit from various points on the East By employing the surface line connection

which are proposed by Mr. Vreeland, a still more prompt and convenient connection can be made between any one point and another in the business di trict, all for fiv-When to this is added the promptness with

which persons coming in over the Pennsylvania and New York Central roads can take a subway car and cover any point in the business district, either directly or by transfer to the crosstown surface lines, it is evident ness man which it would be hard to duplicate or increase

Business men of the East and West Sides as well as those of the downtown district ought to be active agitators for a project which means something of the same economy of time and effort which they derive from the telephone and would derive from a fast local mail service if we had it.

New York, March 12. MARK S. FEILER.

How Ship Canals Pay.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: No. hat we are arranging to begin work on the American Panama Canal it is of interest to note what other ship canals of the world are doing. Take, for instance, the Mancheste

doing. Take, for instance, the Mancheser Ship Canal. It has now been open for ten years, during which time it has made the following good and increasing record of seaborne traffic, in tons:

1894. 683, 158 | 1899. 2,429,168 | 1895. 1,087,443 | 1899. 2,744,841 | 1898. 1,509,658 | 1901. 2,644,841 | 1898. 1,700,479 | 1902. 3,137,341 | 1898. 2,218,005 | 1903. 3,551,031

1887 1,709,479 1802 3.151,631

During this period also its barge traffic has averaged about 530,000 tons yearly.

The striking feature of these results is the constant growth, year by year, of the seaborne traffic. So will it be with the American Panama Canal. Once the ocean-connecting waterway is provided the commerce of the world will not be long in seeing and utilizing its advantages. Day by day foreign vessels passing through it will salute the American flag, and thus give daily recognition of American control of the greatest and most useful waterway in the world.

In the half year ended Dec. 31, 1903, the Manchester Ship Canal carried 2,011,000 tons of toll-paying merchandise, an increase of 200,000 tons over the preceding half year. The half-year's revenue was \$1,038,015, of which \$507,585 was net revenue.

Walter J. Ballard.

Schenectady, March 11.

S. Weller's Diamond Wedding. From Reynolds's Newspaper.

Mr. S. Weller, 82, and Mrs. Weller, 78, natives of High Wycombe, Bucks, have just celebrated the sixtleth anniversary of their wedding. They have nine children living, forty-seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

The Harsh Chicago R. From the New Orleans Picayune His accent is not noticeable, the harsh Chicat "r" and the Scotch burr being both absent from his